



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898



IN REPLY
REFER TO:

MP-100
ADM-13.00

APR 15 1999

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Agencies) have signed the February 1999 Agreement in Principle (Agreement) for the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project (Project). CALFED has tentatively approved funding for this Project with the understanding that the Agencies would hold public workshops on the Agreement and develop an MOU by April 16, 1999. This letter will serve as an update on the progress and recommendations for reaching closure.

Public Workshops

As directed, the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy and the Battle Creek Working Group sponsored public workshops in Manton on March 10, 1999, and Red Bluff on March 11, 1999. The Agreement was presented to the Tehama County Board of Supervisors on March 9, 1999, and Shasta County Board of Supervisors on March 16, 1999. These well-attended meetings provided an excellent opportunity for local interests to learn more about the Agreement and to better understand local issues. The Agreement was well-received and discussions with local interests did not result in any unforeseen issues which would affect the viability of the Project.

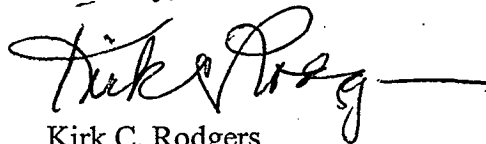
MOU Development

The Agencies have been working diligently to develop an MOU based on the Agreement. This work includes ongoing discussions with interested Non-Governmental Organizations who are contributing valuable input. While considerable progress has been achieved, regrettably, the Agencies will be unable to provide CALFED a mutually-acceptable MOU by the April 16, 1999, deadline. The Agencies want CALFED to be assured that they remain committed to the Project as described in the Agreement and CALFED funding proposal. The delay in reaching closure is

primarily based on the MOU's broad scope which covers many unprecedented issues. The Agencies are committed to continue working through these issues in a timely manner to develop an MOU that will serve the test of time of this long-term endeavor to the mutual satisfaction of all the Agencies and the benefit of Battle Creek's unique fishery resources. It is of utmost importance that care be taken in crafting the language and content of the MOU to avoid future disputes likely to result from a hastily-prepared document of this breadth and ultimately detract from the achievement of the fishery restoration goals. Accordingly, Agencies are requesting to have CALFED's deadline for development of the MOU extended to May 14, 1999. This would allow the Agencies time to distribute the document to the Ecosystem Roundtable members for review prior to their May 20, 1999, meeting.

The Agencies will ensure that appropriate staff will attend the April 22, 1999, Ecosystem Roundtable meeting to answer questions. If you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please contact Mr. Steve Hirsch of my staff at (916) 978-5010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Rodgers", followed by a horizontal line.

Kirk C. Rodgers
Acting Regional Director